

REMARKS

This application has been amended so as to place it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

The Official Action rejects claims 2-7 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Official Action states that claim 2 is incomplete, and thus indefinite. It is the understanding of the applicants that the basis for this rejection is the failure to include a period at the end of the claim. Applicants have amended claim 2 as necessary to overcome this rejection.

The Official Action rejects claim 1 under 35 USC §102(e) as anticipated by DATE 6,285,482. The Official Action further states, however, that claims 2-7 are allowable but for their dependence from rejected claim 1 and the indefiniteness rejection addressed above.

Applicants have amended claim 2 to incorporate the entirety of original claim 1. This amendment, together with the cancellation of claim 1, should place claims 2-7 into condition for immediate allowance. The Official Action further states that claims 8-13 are allowed.

In addition to the amendments described above, applicants have added new claims 14-21. Of these, claim 14 is independent, with claims 15-21 depending therefrom.

Claim 14 recites features that are neither disclosed nor suggested by the applied DATE reference, nor by any other known prior art.

Among other features, claim 14 recites a base board, an electric motor, and a polygon mirror, with the polygon mirror and electric motor being disposed entirely on a first side of the base board.

In rejecting original claim 1 over the DATE reference, the Official Action identifies as the recited base board the bottom of the optical box 50, illustrated in Figure 3A of the reference. As noted in the paragraph beginning on line 38 of column 3 in the reference, the element 2 illustrated in Figure 3A is a motor housing. Clearly, the motor extends entirely through the base board, and cannot reasonably be construed as being entirely disposed on a first side of the base board, as recited in new claim 14. Additionally, the reference cannot be construed as teaching an arrangement wherein the frame mount and the bottom face of the base board define a space below the base board, in connection with which rotation of the polygon mirror does not cause movement of air in the defined space.

The remaining new claims 15-21 depend from independent claim 14 and recite additional features believed to be unknown in the prior art.

In light of the amendments described above as well as the statements in the Official Action as to allowance and

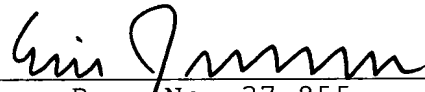
allowability, applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions or requires further clarification of any of the above points, the Examiner may contact the undersigned attorney so that this application may continue to be expeditiously advanced.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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